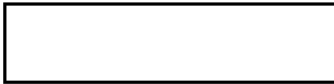


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23 September 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

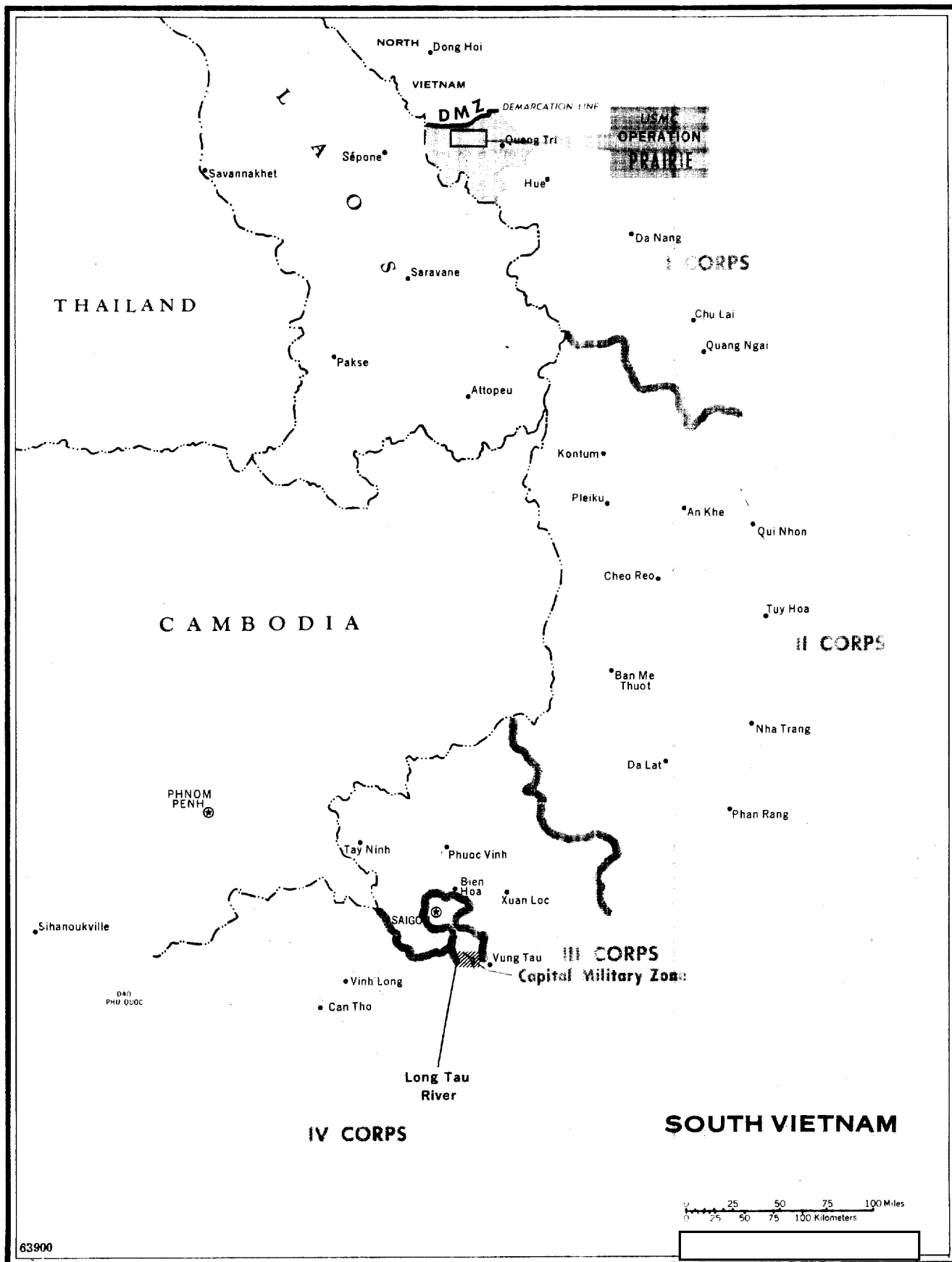
1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)

25X1

3. South Korea: Corruption uproar developing into confrontation between administration and legislature. (Page 4)

25X6

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23 Sep 66 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

23 September 1966

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: A Viet Cong attack in the river approaches to Saigon highlighted recent military activity.

Viet Cong forces yesterday directed recoilless rifle fire on a US Navy minesweeper in the Long Tau river channel southeast of Saigon. Casualties among the ship's crew totaled one killed and seven wounded, but the ship proceeded to the outskirts of Saigon under its own power.

The attack may have been launched by a 55-man enemy unit whose presence and mission of attacking allied shipping in this area was revealed in recently captured enemy documents. According to the documents, the unit was equipped with antitank rifles, B-40 rocket launchers, and 57-mm. recoilless rifles, and was probably responsible for the sinking of the US merchant ship Baton Rouge Victory on 23 August.

In the northernmost province of Quang Tri, a company of US Marines participating in Operation PRAIRIE encountered heavy opposition while seizing an enemy village less than a mile from the Demilitarized Zone on 21 September. Known Communist losses were reported to be 51 killed; US casualties totaled four killed and 23 wounded. The extensive fortifications and tunnels discovered throughout the village after the firefight indicate that it had probably been used as a major enemy supply point and staging area.

Since its initiation on 3 August, Operation PRAIRIE has resulted in cumulative Communist losses of 620

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killed, three captured, and 105 weapons seized. US casualties thus far total 99 killed and 321 wounded. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The newly elected constituent assembly is facing some potentially thorny problems before it even begins drafting a constitution.

The election of an assembly president will probably be held soon after the assembly convenes on 27 September. Speculation concerning the likely winner is currently centering on five well-known politicians from the Saigon area, but no clear favorite has yet emerged. Should a consensus fail to develop, regional and other differences among the delegates could be exacerbated by a drawn-out election contest.

In addition, some delegates may attempt to foster early assembly consideration of the military government's current veto power over any draft constitution lacking a two-thirds majority vote by the assembly. A formal assembly discussion of this controversial issue could mar relations with the military government at the outset. Several of the leading delegates are now working against any such discussion.

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23 Sep 66

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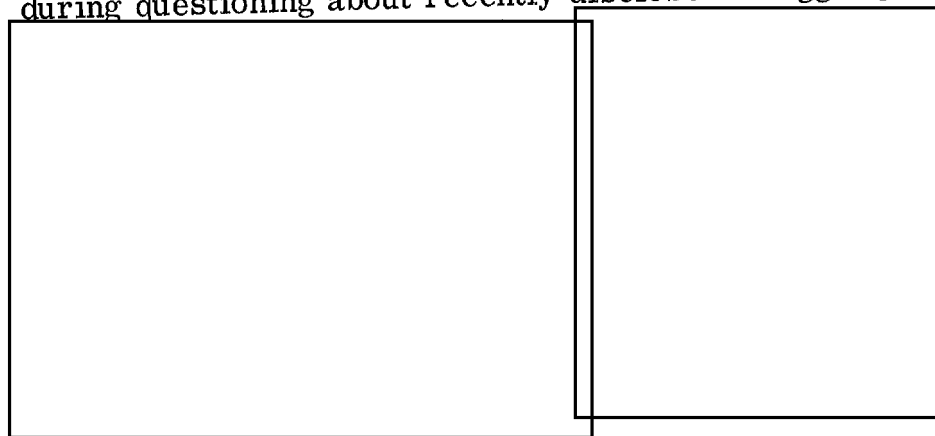
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South Korea: The growing political uproar over alleged government corruption is developing into a confrontation between the Pak administration and the legislature.

The cabinet has tendered its resignation after the prime minister and three of his colleagues were vulgarly insulted on the floor of the National Assembly during questioning about recently disclosed smuggling.

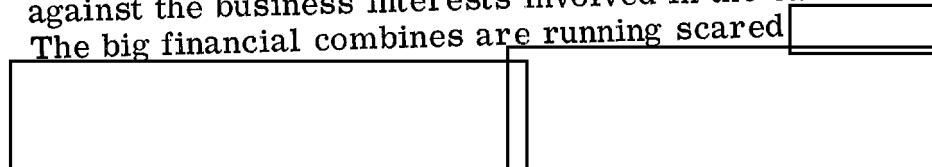
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The uproar threatens to spill over onto the economy. The opposition is demanding strong punitive action against the business interests involved in the case. The big financial combines are running scared

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